

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant received an Office Action dated September 2, 2003, in the parent application (09/878,984), in which the Examiner concluded that dependent claims 8 and 16 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form and rejected all other claims. To expedite prosecution of the parent case, Applicant rewrote claims 8 and 16 in independent form and made all other claims depend from allowable claims 8 and 16.

In this Preliminary Amendment and accompanying continuation application, Applicant amends claims 1 and 9, cancels claims 2-8 and 10-16 in favor of those claims in the parent case, and presents new claims 17-20.

I. The Art Rejections

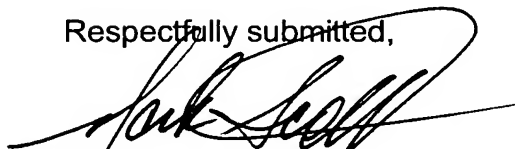
The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 9 as obvious over Laudon *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,110) in view of Boyle *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,975).

As amended, claims 1 and 9 are directed to systems that possess, at a minimum, "circuitry, responsive to receipt of the first invalidation request, for determining a next node identified by the pattern of bits in the invalidation request and for sending to the next node, if any, a second invalidation request corresponding to the first invalidation request, and for invalidating a cached copy of the identified memory line, if any, in the particular node of the computer system." Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest sending a second invalidation request that may or may not be predetermined within the system software. Thus for at least this reason, claims 1 and 9 and dependent claims 17-20 are allowable.

If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Scott', is written over a horizontal line.

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